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Dear Examiner Hicks:

Thank you for your time and efforts with respect to the subject application. As discussed, we would like to hold a teleconference Thursday (4/26/07) at 12:30pm to discuss the subject patent application. The attendees will be Nilesh Amin and Brian Steed. The proposed agenda is a discussion of the 35 U.S.C. §112, 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections. The agenda will be as follows:

- I. Introduction
- II. Discussion of rejection of independent claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112
- III. Discussion of rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b)
 - a. Discuss independent claims 1, 13, 22, 29, 34, 42, and 43
 - b. Discuss deficiencies of the cited references vis a vis the subject claims
 - c. Discuss whether proposed amendments overcome the rejection of the claims
- III. Discussion of rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)
 - a. Discuss independent claims 1, 13, 22, 29, 34, 42, and 43
 - b. Discuss deficiencies of the cited references vis a vis the subject claims
 - c. Discuss whether proposed amendments overcome the rejection of the claims

Attached, please find proposed claim amendments, as well as remarks regarding the claim rejections. These remarks can be discussed more fully during the interview.

Thanks again for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

-Brian

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A system that refines a general-purpose search engine, comprising:
 - a component that identifies an entry point that includes a link utilized to access the general-purpose search engine; and
 - a tuning component that receives search query results of filters search query results of the general-purpose search engine and filters the search results based at least on criteria associated with the entry point through which the general-purpose search engine was accessed .
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, the criteria comprising one or more of a document property, a context parameter, and a configuration.
3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein:
 - the document property comprising comprises one or more of a term that appears on a web page, a property of a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifying the web page, a property of a plurality of URLs that link to the web page, a property of a plurality of web pages that link to the web page, and a layout;
 - the context parameter comprises one of a word probability and a probability distribution; and;
 - the configuration trains the tuning component to differentiate between a result that is relevant and a result that is non-relevant to the search query context for a group of users.
4. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 2, the context parameter comprising one of a word probability and a probability distribution
5. (Original)The system of claim 1, the tuning component is provided with training data to learn what properties of a document are indicative of the document being relevant to a user executing a search query from the entry point.

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6. (Original) The system of claim 1, the tuning component configured to differentiate between a query result that is relevant to a search query context for a group of users and a query result that is non-relevant to the search query context for the group of users.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, the tuning component employs statistical analysis in connection with filtering the search query results.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, the tuning component generates one or more context parameters for a received query result, and compares the generated context parameters with a relevant context parameter and a non-relevant context parameter to determine whether the query result is relevant.
9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, the tuning component further ranks the query results.
10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, the ranking determined by the degree of relevance of the query result to a relevant data set and a non-relevant data set, the relevance is determined *via* one of a similarity measure and a confidence interval.
11. (Original) The system of claim 9, the ranking order comprising one of ascending and descending, from the most relevant result to the least relevant result.
12. (Original) The system of claim 1, the tuning component configured for a plurality of entry points associated with one or more groups of users.
13. (Currently Amended) A system that tunes a general-purpose search engine, comprising:
 - a filter component that parses relevant and non-relevant general-purpose search engine content results based on training data ~~depending on~~ associated with the entry point

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that provides a link employed to traverse to the general-purpose search engine based on training data; and

a ranking component that sorts the filtered results in accordance with the training data for presentation to a user.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, the filter component parses the results as a function of one or more of a document property, a context parameter, and a configuration associated with the entry point.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13, the filter component trained to differentiate between a relevant and a non-relevant result *via* the training data.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, the training data comprising a set of relevant data associated with a search context of a user for the entry point and a set of non-relevant data comprising random data unrelated to the search context of the user for the entry point.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, the filter component employs statistical analysis to determine whether a result is relevant or non-relevant to the entry point.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, the ranking component employs a technique to determine the degree of relevance of the query results with respect to a relevant data set and a non-relevant data set.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, the technique comprising one of a similarity measure and a confidence interval.

20. (Original) The system of claim 13, the ranking order comprising one of ascending and descending, from the most relevant result to the least relevant result.

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21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, the ranking performed on the relevant query results, the non-relevant results are discarded.

22. (Currently Amended) A method to filter and rank general-purpose search engine results based on criteria associated with an entry point, comprising:

executing a query search with the general-purpose search engine accessed through a link associated with the entry point;

filtering the general-purpose search engine results by tuning the general-purpose search engine based on the entry point employed to access the general purpose search engine; and

ranking the general-purpose search engine results.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising employing a statistical hypothesis to determine whether a result is relevant or non-relevant to a search context of the entry point.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, the statistical hypothesis employing a threshold in connection with a probability distribution for relevant data and a probability distribution for non-relevant data, respective word probabilities are generated for the search query results and compared to the threshold, the probability distribution for relevant data and the probability distribution for non-relevant data to determine whether the results are relevant or non-relevant.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, the threshold employed to bias the decision to mitigate one of a result being deemed non-relevant when the result is relevant and a result being deemed relevant when the result is non-relevant.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, further employing a probability distribution analysis or machine learning in connection with the filtering and ranking, wherein suitable probability distributions include a Bernoulli, a binomial, a Pascal, a Poisson, an arcsine, a beta, a Cauchy, a chi-square with N degrees of freedom, an Erlang, a uniform,

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an exponential, a gamma, a Gaussian-univariate, a Gaussian-bivariate, a Laplace, a log-normal, a rice, a Weibull and a Rayleigh distribution, and the machine learning can classify based on one or more of a word occurrence, a distribution, a page layout, an inlink, and an outlink.

27. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising employing a statistical analysis to rank search query results.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, the ranking comprising one of generating word probabilities and employing a confidence interval to determine relevance, and generating a similarity measure comprising one of a cosine distance, the Jaccard coefficient, an entropy-based measure, a divergence measure and/or a relative separation measure to determine similarity.

29. (Previously Presented) A method to customize a general-purpose search engine to improve context search query results, comprising:

tuning a general-purpose search engine for an entry point by employing a method further comprising:

providing a set of relevant data to train a component to discern query results relevant to a search context of a user employing the entry point, the entry point provides a link employed to access the general-purpose search engine;

providing a set of non-relevant data to train the component to discern query results unrelated to the search context, the set of relevant data and the set of non-relevant data are manually provided; and

determining whether a query result is relevant to the search context based on the set of relevant data and the set of non-relevant data.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, the set of relevant data comprising data associated with the search context of the user for the entry point.